

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ***Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery to hold Memorial Day ceremony May 28***

DUBLIN—The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery will hold its first Memorial Day ceremony on May 28 at 10 a.m. The cemetery, located at 5550 Bagging Plant Road in Dublin, opened in May 2011.

First Sergeant Mike Honaker will be the honorary guest speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony. Honaker served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and joined the Virginia State Police in 1989 after leaving the Marines. He is also the presiding Bishop and Senior Pastor of the River of Life Church in Dublin.

The Memorial Day Ceremony is sponsored by the American Legion Post #58 of Dublin. As part of the ceremony, representatives from this post and other veteran service organizations will place wreaths at the committal shelter to honor Virginia's veterans. American flags will be placed on all gravesites.

Cemetery staff will be available to help visitors locate gravesites, and military service members and veterans can file pre-applications for future burial in the cemeteries.

Service members who were honorably discharged qualify for burial in one of Virginia's veterans cemeteries. A gravesite, opening and closing of the grave for the veteran, a pre-installed outer burial container, placement of a government grave marker, and perpetual care of the site are provided to the veteran at no charge. Veterans' spouses and eligible dependent children may be interred for a small fee, currently \$300.

The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery is one of three state-operated veterans cemeteries. Other state veterans cemeteries include the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, located in Suffolk, and the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, located in Amelia. The cemeteries are operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

In addition to operating three veterans cemeteries, DVS operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members with filing claims for veterans benefits. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center, a 240-bed long-term care center in Roanoke, and the 160-bed Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. DVS coordinates the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements. For more information about DVS, visit <http://www.VirginiaforVeterans.com>.

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